

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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REC'D 30 MAY 2005

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

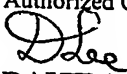
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 04P031	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/AU2004/000815	International filing date (day/month/year) 21 June 2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 19 June 2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. ⁷ E04C 5/16, 5/18			
Applicant UNDERWOOD, Daniel Charles			

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
 - a. ☐ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of sheets, as follows:
 - ☐ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
 - b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or table related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

Date of submission of the demand 11 January 2005	Date of completion of the report 20 May 2005
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer  DAVID LEE Telephone No. (02) 6283 2107

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/AU2004/000815

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 2,5,6,9-34	YES
	Claims 1,3,4,7,8	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 2,5,6,9-34	YES
	Claims 1,3,4,7,8	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-34	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

JP 09-228556, JP 11-100947, JP10-152941, US 4127354, JP08-158540, FR 2478707, NZ 506962,
JP 08-246604, DE 3634568, JP 10-140670

Novelty & Inventive step - Claims 1,3,4,7,8

All the citations disclose bar retainer assemblies which retain 2 bars in adjoining relationship and involve separate retainers. The features of claims 1,3,4,7,8 are all disclosed by these citations.

Hence these claims are not novel and lack an inventive step.

Novelty & Inventive step - Claims 2,5,6,9-34

These claims define inventive features such as loop sections, bridging members and intermediate portions between the bars. None of the citations has such a combination of features and they all function in considerably different ways to these claims.

Hence these claims are novel and have an inventive step.